

To the Hingham Board of Selectmen, regarding leashing vs non-leashing in Bare Cove Park (BCP)

By Shirley Rydell and Susan Kains, Bare Cove Park Committee members; Sept. 3, 2015

Minority opinion (2 of 7)

Unleashed (including voice control) rules are unenforceable; difficult for enforcers to spot bad behavior

Unleashed dogs in BCP resulted in greatly decreased wildlife and destruction of habitat in a wildlife sanctuary

Unleashed dogs in BCP resulted in fears by people for their safety, especially children and the elderly

Unleashed dogs in BCP resulted in degradation of trails and embankments in the park

Unleashed dogs' waste is impossible to pick up if you can't see the dog

Leash law is enforceable; easy for enforcers to spot an unleashed dog

Leash law in BCP will allow people to feel safe, especially children and the elderly

Leash law in BCP will allow wildlife to return and habitat to normalize

Leash law will make BCP cleaner, reduce maintenance

Leash law is easy, fast, and saves money

Of 12 surrounding towns, 10 have full leash laws; Hingham has full leash laws in all its other parks, and no dog problems in those parks. BCP has big problems.

There is no benefit to having unleashed dogs in BCP.

Town of Hingham has no obligation to provide unleashed running space for area dog owners, but it DOES have an obligation to provide safety to people and wildlife in BCP.

Gains/losses with leash law

Gains: Hingham residents and visitors gain safety and relaxation in BCP

Wildlife gains safety and return of protected habitat

Degradation of wooded trails and embankments stops

Lower maintenance costs and a cleaner park

Losses: Dog owners lose unleashed running space for their dogs

Recommended compromise: You can bring your dogs to BCP, but they must be leashed at all times.